AN ACT to create 341.15 (1g) of the statutes; relating to: enforcement of the display of motor vehicle registration plates.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau
Under current law, if two registration plates are issued for a motor vehicle, one plate must be attached to the front of the vehicle and one plate must be attached to the rear of the vehicle. This bill prohibits a law enforcement officer from stopping or inspecting a type 1 automobile having a registered weight of 8,000 pounds or less (generally, lightweight passenger vehicles) solely because no plate is attached to the front of the automobile or because a plate attached to the front of the automobile cannot be seen. This bill does not prohibit a law enforcement officer from issuing a citation for failure to attach two plates to the automobile if the violation is observed in the course of a stop or inspection made for other purposes.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 341.15 (1g) of the statutes is created to read:

341.15 (1g) Notwithstanding s. 349.02, a law enforcement officer may not stop or inspect a type 1 automobile having a registered weight of 8,000 pounds or less solely because no plate is attached to the front of the automobile, or because a plate
attached to the front of the automobile cannot be readily seen and read, unless a
municipality has elected not to attach a plate to the rear of the automobile under sub.
(1) (b). This subsection does not limit the authority of a law enforcement officer to
issue a citation for a violation of sub. (1) or (2) or a local ordinance in conformity with
sub. (1) or (2) observed in the course of a stop or inspection made for other purposes.

SECTION 2. Initial applicability.

(1) This act first applies to type 1 automobiles operated on the effective date
of this subsection.

(END)